Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting
Monday, December 2, 2024 at 4:00 PM
Pender County Public Assembly Room
805 S. Walker Street, Burgaw, NC

PRESENT:	Chairman Brad George Commissioner: District 3 Jerry Groves Commissioner Brent Springer Commissioner Ken Smith
ABSENT:	Commissioner: District 2 Randy Burton
OTHER PRESENT:	Michael Silverman, County Manager Trey Thurman, County Attorney Lexi Stanfield, Clerk to the Board Allen Vann, Assistant County Manager Other Staff and Members of the Press and Public

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1. CALL TO ORDER

   Chairman George called the meeting to order at 4PM.

2. INVOCATION

   Vice Chair Newton gave the invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

   Commissioner McCoy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

   Michael Silverman, County Manager, informed the Board there was a clerical error on item 11.2's attachment and a summary updated for item 11.3. Commissioner Burton requested item 11.6 be moved to item 12.7, under Approvals and Resolutions.

   Vice Chair Newton made a motion to adopt the agenda with the updated attachment for item 11.2 the updated summary for item 11.3, and the moving of item 11.6.
   Commissioner McCoy seconded the motion.
   The motion carried unanimously.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5.1	Approval of November 4, 2024, Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes	Lexi Stanfield	4-9

Vice Chair Newton made a motion to approve the November 4, 2024, regular meeting minutes.
Commissioner McCoy seconded the motion to approve.
The motion carried unanimously.

6. RECOGNITION

6.1 Public Service Recognition for outgoing Commissioner Fred McCoy — Board of Commissioners

Chairman George recognized Commissioner McCoy for his twelve (12) years of service on the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner McCoy spoke about his time on the Board, thanking the staff for their hard work and dedication to the County. Commissioner McCoy advocated for the continuum of funds for emergency relief and thanked his fellow Board members. Commissioner McCoy specifically thanked Meg Blue and the finance department for the work and receiving an AA rating. Lastly, he urges the audience to continue helping Western North Carolina.

6.2 Public Service Recognition for outgoing Commissioner Jacqueline A. Newton — Board of Commissioners

Chairman George recognized Vice Chair Newton for her eight (8) years of service on the Board of Commissioners. Vice Chair Newton stated she was honored to have served and regrets she will not be able to see some projects into fruition. She congratulated the staff on their work and stated the County had competent and capable management. Vice Chair Newton reported she appreciated all the serving opportunities the County has given her.

7. REORGANIZATION

7.1 Appointment of County Attorney as Moderator — Board of Commissioners

Trey Thurman was appointed as the moderator.

7.2 Oath of Office for Newly Elected Pender County Board of Commissioner Member Brad George — Judge Kent Harrell

Judge Kent Harrell swore in Brad George for the Pender County Board of Commissioners.

7.3 Oath of Office for Newly Elected Pender County Board of Commissioner Member Ken Smith — Judge Kent Harrell

Judge Kent Harrell swore in Ken Smith for the Pender County Board of Commissioners.

7.4 Oath of Office for Newly Elected Pender County Board of Commissioner Member Brent Springer — Judge Kent Harrell

Judge Kent Harrell swore in Brent Springer for the Pender County Board of Commissioners.

7.5 Nomination and Selection of the Board of Commissioners Chair — Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Springer nominated Randy Burton for chairman.

Commissioner Springer approved the nomination.
Commissioner Smith approved the nomination.
Commissioner George opposed the nomination.
Commissioner Groves opposed the nomination.

Commissioner Groves nominated Brad George for chairman.
Commissioner Groves approved the nomination.

Commissioner George approved the nomination.
Commissioner Springer opposed the nomination.
Commissioner Smith opposed the nomination.

No chair was selected.

7.6 Nomination and Selection of the Board of Commissioners Vice Chair — Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Springer nominated Ken Smith for vice chairman.

Commissioner Springer approved the nomination.
Commissioner Smith approved the nomination.
Commissioner George opposed the nomination.
Commissioner Groves opposed the nomination.

Commissioner George nominated Jerry Groves for vice chairman.
Commissioner Groves approved the nomination.
Commissioner George approved the nomination.
Commissioner Springer opposed the nomination.
Commissioner Smith opposed the nomination.

No vice chair was selected.

Trey Thurman was selected to continue to reside over the meeting as a non-voting moderator.

7.7 Appointment of the County Attorney — Board of Commissioners

Trey Thurman was appointed as County Attorney.

7.8 Appointment of the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners — Board of Commissioners

Lexi Stanfield was appoint the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

8. PUBLIC HEARING

8.1 Amendment to Chapter 24, Offenses, Miscellaneous Provisions and Nuisances, of the Pender County Code of Ordinances. — Daniel Adams — 10-15

Daniel Adams, Planning Director, presented the item. This item came before the Board last on November 18, 2024. Adams reported the current language of the ordinance is vague. This amendment would provide clarification for the citizens and help the sheriff's office enforce the ordinance. Adams reviewed the exemptions and changes made.

Wade Daner spoke on the item.
Gary Helm spoke on the item.

Commssioner Groves made a motion to amend chapter 24.
Commissioner Smith seconded the motion to amend.
The motion carried unanimously.

9. PUBLIC INFORMATION

9.1	Update on the Imagine Pender 2050 Comprehensive Land Use Plan project	Daniel Adams	16-66

Daniel Adams, Planning Director, introduced Leanne King to review the findings so far in the Imagine Pender 2050 Comprehensive Land Use Plan project. King reviewed the engagement activities held, the objectives, and outcomes of the project so far. Pender County's Planning Department received 1410 responses and 177 citizens attended in-person meetings. King review the preliminary priorities with the Board and answered questions.

9.2	Presentation by Environmental Health on their recent deployment to Western North Carolina to assist post-Hurricane Helene.	Carolyn Moser	67-89

Kenneth Best, Environmental Health Specialist, presented the item. Best showed the audience in a slideshow the condition of the Western North Carolina towns that they assist the community in. He spoke about the work he and other Pender County staff members did during their time there. Pender County had seven (7) volunteers total. Best answered questions from the Board.

9.3	Recognition of Wes Stewart, DSS Director	Carolyn Moser	90

Amanda Howard, Assistant to the DSS Director, presented the item. Howard read aloud a statement from Carolyn Moser, Health Director, recognizing and honoring Wes Stewart for his time and commitment to the Department of Social Services. Wes Stewart will retire at the end of December 2024. Wes Stewart spoke to the Board and audience. He vocalized his appreciation for the opportunities Pender County has given him and how proud he was of Social Services' success. He thanked the Board and staff for their work during his time at Pender.

9.4	Presentation of the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for Fiscal Year Budget 2024-2025.	Margaret Blue	91-93

Meg Blue, Financing Director, presented the item. Finance received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year budget 2024-2025. She specifically thanked Jacob Orman, Budget Analyst, for his hard work. This is the first time Pender County has received this award since 2006.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

11. CONSENT AGENDA

11.1	Budget Ordinance Amendment to Increase Tourism Department Event Fee Revenues and Expenditures FY 24-25 of $1170.00	Gabrielle Dawson	94-95

Commissioner Groves made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.
Commissioner George seconded the motion to approve.
The motion carried unanimously.

11.2	Requesting Approval for the 2025 Holiday Schedule	Pam Brame	96-97

11.3	Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment to increase Purchase Order number 220 for Batteries of NC to outfit vehicles in the amount of $85,000.00.	Alan Cutler	98-99
11.4	Refund/Release Requests for items meeting NC G.S. 105-381	Melissa Radke	100-101
11.5	Motor Vehicle Releases and Refund	Melissa Radke	102-104
11.6	Consideration of Supplemental Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Memorandum of Agreement	Daniel Adams	109-122

12. APPROVALS AND RESOLUTIONS

12.1	Resolution to Declare a Glock Model 22 Handgun Surplus and Award it to Retired Sergeant Thomas Turner in Recognition of his Service to the Citizens of Pender County in the Pender County Sheriff’s Office.	Alan Cutler	123-124

Sheriff Cutler presented the item. It is customary for sergeants to receive their weapon when they retire in honor of their service. The Sheriff's office requested the Board approve the resolution authorizing this.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the resolution.
Commissioner Springer seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

12.2	Resolution to Declare a Glock Model 22 Handgun Surplus and Award it to Retired Sergeant Stephen Clinard in Recognition of his Service to the Citizens of Pender County in the Pender County Sheriff’s Office.	Alan Cutler	125-126

Sheriff Cutler presented the item. It is customary for sergeants to receive their weapon when they retire in honor of their service. The Sheriff's office requested the Board approve the resolution authorizing this.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the resolution.
Commissioner Springer seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

12.3	Approval of Logo Design for Topsail Elevated Water Tank	Brian Terry	127-142

Brian Terry, Supervisor, presented the item. The Topsail Water Tank currently reads "Topsail". Utilities have found unused rightaway maintenance monies in the budget and would like to put it towards painting a logo on the water tower after it receives its contracted painting. Terry provided a variety of logo options to the Board members with their estimated cost. Terry reviewed the staff recommendation and answered questions from the Board. No action was taken on the item.

12.4	Approval of a Purchase Order with Tri County Excavating, LLC in the amount of $38,662.50 for the Abatement, Demolition, and Removal of a Structure Located Behind the Hampstead Annex	Wyatt Richardson	143-191

Wyatt Richardson, Facility and Fleet Director, presented the item. Richardson requested the Board approve the abatement, demolition, and removal of a building behind the Hampstead Annex. The building's attic space has collapsed, there is no electrical lighting, biohazards were found, and mold and mildew were identified. RIchardson answered questions from the Board.

Commissioner Groves made a motion to approve the purchase order with Tri County Excavating, LLC with the inclusion of removing the slab and footer of the building.
Commissioner Springer seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

12.5	Approval of purchase order and authority to execute a contract with Waters Contracting Company for Central Pender Park phase I in the amount of $3,509,000.	Dario Ramirez-Duenas	192-193

Dario Ramirez- Duenas, Project Manager, presented the item. Waters Contracting Company was the lowest bidder and the most responsive. The construction they would provide is necessary to continue the project. Construction will begin by February 2025 to stay aligned with the project's grant requirements. Duenas answered questions from the Board.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve.
Commissioner George seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

12.6	Authorization of Pyrotechnic Display for Burgaw's New Year's Eve Blueberry Drop	Amy Burton	194

Amy Burton, Fire Marshal, presented the item. The pyrotechnic display will be for the Blueberry drop on New Year's Eve in Burgaw.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the item.
Commissioner Groves seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

12.7	Approval of Purchase Order for 2024Ford F-250 for $59,928.00	Wyatt Richardson	105-108

Wyatt Richardson, Facility and Fleet Director, presented the item. The purchase order was budgeted, and the vehicle can be used by other departments when needed. Commissioner Smith vocalized concerns about the body of the vehicle.

Commissioner George made a motion to approve.
Commissioner Groves seconded the motion.\
Motion did not pass due to tie.

13. DISCUSSION

14. APPOINTMENTS

14.1 Appointment to the Novant Pender Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees — Lexi Stanfield — 195-202

Lexi Stanfield, Clerk to the Board, presented the item. Lisa Dollbaum applied for appointment to the Novant Pender Memorial Hospital Board. She currently owns and works at Coastal Transformation, Inc. to help clients achieve health goals. In the past, she worked at different insurance companies as an accountant and financial analyst. The Board voted to appoint her, with her term starting on January 1, 2025, and expiring on December 31, 2027.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to appoint Lisa Dollbaum.
Commissioner Springer seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

14.2 Appointment of a Commissioner to the Novant Pender Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees — Lexi Stanfield — 203

Commissioner Burton was nominated for the Novant Pender Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the nomination.
Commissioner Springer seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

14.3 Appointment of County Commissioner as a Delegate for the Cape Fear Council of Governments — Lexi Stanfield — 204

Commissioner Springer was nominated to be the Delegate for the Cape Fear Council of Governments.

Commissioner Springer made a motion to approve the appointment.
Commissioner Groves seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

14.4 Appointment of a County Commissioner as an Alternate to the Cape Fear Council of Governments — Lexi Stanfield — 205

Commissioner Groves was nominated to be the Alternate for the Cape Fear Council of Governments.

Commissioner George made a motion to appoint.
Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

15. MAPLE HILL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

16. ROCKY POINT WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

17. SCOTTS HILL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

18. MOORE'S CREEK WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

19. CENTRAL PENDER WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

20. PENDER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

21. SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

22. ITEMS FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY, COUNTY MANAGER, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER, & COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

    Trey Thurman, County Attorney, requested the Board go into closed session for item three (3) Attorney Client Privilege.
    Michael Silverman, County Manager, introduced Andre Hogan, the new staff attorney.
    Commissioner Groves advocated for all county residents to have access to water and briefly spoke about stoplights.
    Commissioner George wished the public a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and reminded them of the Veteran's breakfast coming up from 10AM-12PM.

23. CLOSED SESSION (IF APPLICABLE)

    Commissioner George made a motion to go into closed session for item three (3) Attorney Client Privilege.
    Commissioner Groves seconded the motion.
    The motion carried unanimously.

    Commissioner Smith made a motion to resume open session.
    Commissioner Springer seconded the motion.
    The motion carried unanimously.

24. 7PM PUBLIC HEARINGS: SPECIAL USE PERMITS/ZONING MAP AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS

25. ADJOURNMENT

    Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Commissioner George as Administrative Chair until a new chair can be elected.
    Commissioner George seconded the motion.
    The motion carried unanimously.

    Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn.
    Commissioner George seconded the motion.
    Meeting adjourned at 7:25PM.